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Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba

Questions relating to information

Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Information and communication technologies for development

Macroeconomic policy questions

Globalization and interdependence: globalization and interdependence

Eradication of poverty and other development issues

Operational activities for development: South-South cooperation: economic and technical cooperation among developing countries

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization

Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Letter dated 30 November 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour, in my capacity as Chairman of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement, to transmit herewith the text of the "Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the Non-Aligned Movement Information and Communication Collaboration" (see annex), which was adopted by the Sixth Conference of Ministers of Information of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Kuala Lumpur from 19 to 22 November 2005.

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I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly under agenda items 18, 33, 46, 49, 50, 54 (a), 56, 57 (b), 108, 110 and 120.

(*Signed*) Hamidon **Ali**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative and Chairman of the
Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement

Annex to the letter dated 30 November 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the Non-Aligned Movement Information and Communication Collaboration

INTRODUCTION

1. The Ministers of Information of the Non-Aligned Countries convened their Sixth Conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 19 to 22 November 2005 on the theme "Advancing Information And Communication Collaboration Towards A More Dynamic NAM."

2. The Conference was held after a lapse of nine years following the Fifth Conference of Ministers of Information of the Non-Aligned Countries (COMINAC-V) in Abuja, Nigeria from 3 to 6 September 1996, and in pursuance of a call for its convening by the Twelfth Ministerial Conference of the Non-Aligned Countries on 8 and 9 April 2000 in Cartagena, Colombia.

OVERVIEW OF GLOBAL TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS IN INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

3. The Ministers reviewed the global trends and developments in information and communication and noted that the dissemination of discriminatory and distorted information of events taking place in developing countries continues unabated.

4. Noting that the continued situation of lopsided information places the vast majority of mankind at a disadvantage, the Ministers reaffirmed the need for urgent redress of the imbalances.

5. The Ministers called for the acceleration of the pace of advancement and consolidation of collaboration among Non-Aligned and other developing countries in information and communication processes.

6. The Ministers noted that decreasing costs of communications and easy access to Internet services now afforded Member Countries an unprecedented opportunity to increase information linkages among them. Therefore, the Ministers urged all Member Countries to take advantage of the advancement of information and communication technology (ICT) to forge these links.

7. The Ministers, however, acknowledged that to fully harness ICT in developing countries, it is imperative to eradicate poverty, illiteracy and exclusion that prevent developing countries from joining the Information Society.

8. The Ministers are against the imposition of unilateral and coercive measures on developing countries, considering that those measures violate international laws and prevent the full access of the affected countries to the advancement of the ICT, undermine their efforts

to develop their information and communication networks and impede the full achievement of economic and social development for their peoples.

9. The Ministers assessed the performance of Member Countries in the field of information and communication during the last nine years and noted their continuing and increasing efforts to bring about balanced and free flow of information.

10. The Ministers acknowledged the increased efforts being made by some Member Countries and other developing nations to develop their information and communication networks.

11. The Ministers reiterated their call for greater investments in the relevant ICT according to the specific situation and capacity of each country in efforts to move forward the interests of the respective countries as well as the interests of the Member Countries as a whole.

ANOTHER LOOK AT THE NEW WORLD INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION ORDER (NWICO)

12. The Ministers regretted the continued imbalances and inequalities in the field of international information and communication. They highlighted the serious implications which the negative situation portends for member countries and advocated effective strategies for confronting the challenge.

13. The Ministers observed that the long history of the struggle for a New World Information and Communication Order (NWICO) notwithstanding, the salient objectives are yet to be realised.

14. The Ministers reaffirmed the need to continue working for a NWICO which would guarantee greater impartiality and balance of information in order to improve the information and communication infrastructure and the development of capacities in developing countries.

15. The Ministers expressed concern that developing nations are still impoverished, not only materially and economically, but in terms of equitable endowments and opportunities in the field of global information and communication.

16. The Ministers noted that although the objectives of the NWICO have yet to be fully realised, some Member Countries have, individually, made significant strides towards attaining a balanced flow of two-way information among themselves and with non-Member Countries.

17. The Ministers stressed that self-reliance and South-South cooperation should be intensified to attain a higher level of activities to strengthen the information and communication infrastructure both at national and grouping level. In this context, the Ministers proposed that the more developed Member Countries extend assistance and share their experience and expertise with the others.

18. The Ministers agreed to reduce dependence on information from industrialised nations on Member Countries by initiating and supporting co-operative activities that will augment

the new order, through fresh and dynamic approaches to programming, content and networking in the media systems of Member Countries and other developing countries.

19. The Ministers noted the effects of an unjust global economic system which severely impede the ability of Member Countries to realise their optimum potentials for economic growth and development. They noted the adverse implications of the economic constraint in seeking to evolve more effective strategies for developing efficient and independent information networks that will facilitate the preservation and promotion of national interests

20. The Ministers recognised that the existing imbalances in the information system result in adverse effects on the global economic system and thereby impede the ability of Member Countries to realise their optimum potentials for economic growth and development. The Ministers therefore urged all Member Countries to take practical steps in ensuring that ICT should be utilised to develop economies and societies of developing countries and transforming the lives of socially and economically disadvantaged people.

21. The Ministers declared that the imbalances and inequalities found in global trade and the debt burden still constitute monumental hindrances to genuine social, economic and political progress in developing nations of the world. Accordingly, together with reaffirming their own commitment towards achieving economic and social progress, they called for urgent and sustained international action to create the necessary conditions for each nation to realise their own potential and ensure genuine global peaceful co-existence.

22. The Ministers called for increased investments in human capital and material resources in the area of information and communication and noted that some Member Countries are moving in that direction.

23. The Ministers emphasised the need for training in ICT to produce practitioners to raise the overall standard and quality of the sector to facilitate information dissemination and communication to meet the ever growing challenges emerging in a globalised world. They stressed the importance of effective measures to prevent the brain-drain of those personnel which has a negative impact on the strategies to develop and improve the human resource of developing countries.

24. The Ministers proposed that training programmes be organised, both at institutions of higher learning and by professional journalism institutes, to upgrade the skills of journalists in the coverage of common themes such as global disasters and terrorism, as well as promoting tourist destinations in the Member Countries.

25. The Ministers also urged these institutions of higher learning and professional journalism institutes, to realise the importance of their contribution towards development and to continue to upgrade the skills of media practitioners so that their reports contribute to the development of their countries.

26. The Ministers emphasised the need for information and communication strategies to be rooted in historical and cultural processes, and urged that the views, models and perspectives of the media of developed countries should respect those of the developing countries to ensure the continuing dialogue between civilisations.

27. Expressing concern about the orchestrated smear campaigns which developing nations have suffered from biased and distorted Western media reports, the Ministers re-emphasised the need for sustained efforts by the mechanisms charged with the dissemination of news and information among and about Member Countries to counter this threat.

28. The Ministers opposed the use of the media as a tool for hostile propaganda against developing countries which are aimed at destabilising their Governments. They called for an immediate cessation of the radio electronic aggression against NAM Member Countries as it is an action contrary to the principles of international law. They reaffirmed that the radio electronic frequencies spectrum must be secured in favour of public interest and in accordance with the principle of legality.

29. The Ministers agreed that NAM should initiate steps for establishing international norms, ethics and/or code of conduct for the media.

30. The Ministers reiterated their profound condemnation of all acts of terrorism and appreciated the profound role of media in supporting the international efforts to combat terrorism. They regretted the continued tendency of the western media in stereotyping and profiling perpetrators of terrorist acts as Muslims.

31. The Ministers agreed that the continuing struggle for the NWICO should be intensified since the challenges and realities which formed the call for a NWICO are still prevalent in the world order.

BROADCASTING ORGANISATION OF NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES (BONAC)

32. The Ministers agreed that renewed efforts be taken to revitalise the Broadcasting Organisation of Non-Aligned Countries (BONAC) in order for it to play its rightful role in disseminating information via radio and television among Member Countries and the world at large.

33. Towards this end, the Ministers urged all Member Countries to cooperate in the consolidation of the organisation by mapping out common strategies that would create a conducive environment to operate in a more effective manner.

34. The Ministers reaffirmed their belief in BONAC as an effective medium for transmitting factual news of events of the developing countries to the world. Accordingly, they acknowledged the need to re-position and re-vitalise BONAC in order to enable it to attain its primary goals and objectives.

35. The Ministers stressed that BONAC must not be allowed to experience any impediment and advised the BONAC Co-operation Committee and Technical Committee to endeavour to work harder and avail Member Countries with effective operational and technical strategies to enhance their functions.

36. The Ministers acknowledged the role of private broadcasting in modern public information and communication processes and agreed that private practitioners should be encouraged to complement the efforts of government agencies.

37. The Ministers, nevertheless, reaffirmed the importance of and the vital role played by public broadcasters, both radio and television, in developing countries and agreed that steps be taken to further develop public broadcasting.

38. The Ministers, noting the rapid advances in broadcasting technology, especially digitalisation, resolved to work together to face all the challenges ahead.

NON-ALIGNED NEWS AGENCIES POOL (NANAP)

39. The Ministers expressed their thanks and gratitude to the Islamic Republic of Iran and its national news agency IRNA for their relentless efforts to develop and nurture the Non-Aligned News Agencies Pool (NANAP) during their tenure as Chairman of the Pool. The Ministers noted that despite IRNA's untiring efforts to make NANAP a success, it has for many years been inactive due to declining support from Member Countries.

40. In furtherance of the common ideals of NAM, the Ministers agreed that NANAP should be revitalised through a new workable mechanism, if necessary in a new form, to move forward.

41. The Ministers welcomed Malaysia's proposal to replace the pool with a new mechanism, to be called NAM News Network (NNN), to effect a more sustained and efficient flow of news and information among Non-Aligned and other developing countries.

42. The Ministers thanked Malaysia for its generous offer to host the NNN and underwrite its start-up cost and mandated that a committee of member countries work with Malaysia to formulate operational guidelines for the establishment of NNN.

43. The Ministers acknowledged the need for a concerted effort by Member Countries to expand their information dissemination capacity to boost the development process of member countries.

44. The Ministers agreed that progress of the NNN be reported to COMINAC.

VOTE OF THANKS

The Ministers commended and thanked the Government and the people of Malaysia for the excellent organisation of COMINAC-VI and the warm hospitality accorded them during their stay in the beautiful city of Kuala Lumpur.

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
22 November 2005